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THU: 55°F | 45°F Partly cloudy





Thursday, May 11, 2017

## Student campaign calls for boycott of Aramark services

Campus dining provider accused of exploitative practices, poor food

By Anshula Gandhi

MIT No Aramark, an MIT campaign launched by students in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, started circulating a petition to the MIT community last week calling on MIT to join the national movement to boycott campus food provider Aramark. According to the petition, Aramark has generated "numerous human rights complaints" from the prisons it serves.

Aramark has been accused of being responsible for "inadequate, rotten, or maggot-infested food, food shortages, exploitative labor practices, sexual harassment and drug trafficking."

Specifically, the petition, which had garnered over 680 signatures at the time of publication, calls on Suzy Nelson, the vice president of student life, to "deny Aramark the opportunity to bid, and firmly refuse any future contract on campus" when MIT Dining considers new dining providers this summer.

Aramark has the second-largest dining contract on campus, and services Steam Cafe, Bosworth, and

Cafe Four, among other vendors. The company is listed by MIT's office of the vice president of finance as a "preferred" caterer, and has provided catering services to MIT for over 30 years.

The leader of the national Aramark boycott is the "Free Alabama Movement." Last year, the movement incited a national prison strike.

Nelson and Peter Cummings, executive director for administration for DSL, recently met with the students behind the petition to discuss their "concerns related to Aramark," Matthew Bauer, director of communications for DSL, wrote in an email to The Tech. Nelson and Cummings encouraged students to participate in the process of choosing the next food and dining partner by drafting questions for prospective respondents to answer during the request for proposal.

Bauer wrote that "those answers will be an integral part of the discussions," but made no promises regarding Aramark. The search for a new dining provider will start in May and will take over a year. A new vendor is projected to be selected



Class Council members and proxies participated in a UA vote last night to determine if class budgets

## Class Council budgets to remain private after contentious debate

Differences in class budgets raise fears of "friction"

By Anshula Gandhi

The UA Council held a meeting yesterday to vote on whether the Class Council budgets should be made public to shared with undergraduates. The vote revealed a deep rift between the UA Council and Class Councils on the issue.

While the majority of the UA Council members present voted to require all Class Council budgets to be released to undergraduates, the majority of Class Council members present voted against the proposal. The results of the vote were 12 in favor, 34 opposed, and one abstaining.

Senior Class Council Representative, Liana Ilutzi '17, explained that nobody from her class had complained to her about not being able to see the budget publicly. Ilutzi also cited the "friction" that may come about when students see that different classes received different amounts of funding. She mentioned that her job in Class Council was not only to unite the class but to unite the school.

Olivia Brode-Roger '17, former

Judicial Review Board member and current member of The Tech, recalling a previous meeting with Ilutzi, later told *The Tech* that while the freshman Class Council receives a few thousand dollars, senior Class Council receives around

If students wanted to see the budget, they could reach out to a Class Council member to show it to them in person, said Ilutzi. She cited that around 10 people had reached out to her over the past four years asking to see the Class Council budget.

Brode-Roger said that it had taken her 2 weeks to get a meeting with her class representative, Ilutzi, and 30 minutes to look through the class budget on Ilutzi's computer.

The conclusion of the meeting was to create working groups over the summer to reach consensus between the UA and Class Council, effectively postponing the vote on public budgets until the results from these working groups come

During the meeting, Class Council members claimed they had only heard this meeting would be discussing submitting budgetary reports the morning of the meeting.

However, an email from Alexa Martin sent April 24 to Ilutzi and several other Class Council representatives stated that the meeting would cover "introducing a clause for submitting a public preliminary budget for the year and an end of the year budgetary report for each Class Council."

Ilutzi confirmed to The Tech that she, as well as other Class Council members, received this email, but wrote that "we were not given the exact verbiage on the exact vote and amendments until the night of

Also discussed during the meeting was a clause allowing UA Council to remove members of Class Council and Ring Committee. Additionally, the UA Council voted to establish a "policy platform." Elena Alberti '17, the UA public affairs committee chair, wrote in an April 24 email to the undergraduate body that the platfrom will "dictate what the UA does and does not support in terms of national policies as well as MIT policies.'

### IN SHORT

Pre-registration is open. Continuing students have until June 19 to initiate pre-registration for the fall.

"Playsentations" for 2.00b, Toy Product Design, will take place next Tuesday in 10-250 starting at 7:30 p.m.

Remember to fill out course evaluations at web.mit.edu/

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

### subjectevaluation.

## Due to concerns that 'healthy people are paying for sick,' grad students with families face extra health insurance hike

MIT Medical rates will increase 9.4% for grad students with dependents, 5% higher than for other students

By Anshula Gandhi

NEWS EDITOR

"MIT Medical insurance rates for grad students with spouses and dependents are set to increase by 9.4% next year, 5% higher than the increase for students," according to a statement by Eastgate President, Eric Kilpatrick G, Graduate Student Council Families Representative Ankur Chavda G, and

GSC member Huma Gupta G, along with Naomi Carton, associate dean of residential life and dining.

The current plan is to continue this rate of increase for at least the next three years"

The statement was shared with Westgate residents in an email sent by Westgate Executive Committee presidents Paloma Gonzalez Rojas G and Diego Brugnoli.

"MIT Medical has decided to

disproportionately increase the insurance costs for families over concerns that healthy people are paying for sick people," Rojas wrote.

"They've identified that young, single students tend to cost less than spouses that often have pregnancies or children that sometimes have complications which require expensive medical care to survive," Rojas

MIT Medical officials held a

meeting May 8 for Westgate residents to voice their concerns.

Rojas urged Westgate residents in an email to attend the meeting and ask about issues such as why MIT students aren't able to acquire federal subsidies on the MIT health plan, why "faculty and staff have much lower health insurance costs than grad students," and why MIT isn't "using its profits from drug patents to offset the high cost of drugs in our health care plan."

The "administrators who support these cost increases for families," according to Rojas, are Cecilia Warpinski Stuopis, director of MIT Medical, Suzy Nelson, vice president of student life, and Cindy Barnhart,

The reasoning for the price increase, said the WEC presidents, results from "concerns that healthy people are paying for sick people."

### **MENTAL ILLNESS** AT MIT

A personal narrative and recommendations to admin. OPINION, p. 4

### **LOOKING THE PAST**

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### **BIG HEAD, BIG DREAMS**

Interview with Silicon Valley actor. ARTS, p. 8



### **ALVIN AILEY DANC-ERS ENCHANT BOS-**

New pieces debuted, company standards revisited. ARTS, p. 7

### **AMERICAN CULI-NARY ICON**

Documentary looks into Jeremiah Tower. ARTS, p. 7

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### Obama speaks in Milan on food production and climate change

ROME — Barack Obama took his first step back onto the world stage on Tuesday, shedding his tie to give wide-ranging, if studiously nonpartisan, remarks during a food and technology conference in Milan.

First in a keynote address, during which he often consulted his notes, and then in a policy-heavy conversation with his former cook, Sam Kass, Obama spoke about how climate change was imperiling food production around the world and threatening to aggravate the "migration that has put such a burden on Europe."

In a conversation that seemed intended to avoid making news, he also spoke about rain patterns, income inequality, privacy issues, his post-presidential life and cows. When President Donald Trump was mentioned, Obama politely turned the page, saying that while "the current administration has differences with my administration in terms of energy policy," he believed that "the private sector has already made a decision that the future is

Organizers of the event in Milan — the 2017 Seeds & Chips conference on global food innovation - declined to say how much Obama was paid to appear, and the Obama Foundation declined to comment.

–Jason Horowitz and Stephanie Strom, The New York Times

### Iran leader vows 'slap in the face' for election disruptions

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's highest leader said Wednesday that any disrupters of national elections, which are less than two weeks away, would receive a "slap in the face," underscoring the political tensions lurking behind the vote.

The warning came in a widely publicized speech by the leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to graduating cadets of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the powerful paramilitary force, in which he emphasized that security is the most important issue of the May 19 election, when Iranians choose a new president and city and village councils.

Ever since unprecedented anti-government protests after the disputed 2009 presidential vote, elections have become delicate

The political atmosphere before this year's election on the surface seems relatively free and open, in part to ensure that many Iranians turn out to vote for a set of strictly vetted candidates.

—Thomas Erdbrink, The New York Times

### Macron to take over as President of France on Sunday

Emmanuel Macron will take office as France's next president May 14, President François Hollande announced Monday, a day after the independent centrist candidate defeated Marine Le Pen in a battle for the country's leadership.

Macron did not make a statement Monday, but his attention will already have turned to the choice of a prime minister and to the legislative elections of June 11 and 18, when all 577 seats in the National Assembly, the lower, more powerful house of the French Parliament, will be up for grabs.

Macron's year-old political movement plans to field candidates — a mix of newcomers and more experienced figures for all of the seats. In the meantime, he is expected to name a prime minister and a Cabinet.

But if Macron's party does not win enough seats in the legislative elections, the Assembly could essentially force him to choose another prime minister.

The two mainstream parties — the Socialists and the Republicans - hope to reassert themselves in the legislative elections, as does the far-right National Front, led by Le Pen. The movement of the far-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon also hopes to do well.

—Sewell Chan, The New York Times

## Trump fires Comey, agents worry about Russia inquiry

Adam Goldman and Charlie Savage

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — These are not happy times at the FBI.

President Donald Trump fired FBI Director James Comey on Tuesday, saying he had mishandled the Clinton investigation.

Agents were stunned that Trump would fire Comey in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether any of the president's associates had conspired with Russia to swing the election in favor of Trump. Some said in interviews that news of the firing felt like a gut punch. Others wondered whether they would be able to continue the inquiry.

One senior FBI official said that the president had severely damaged his standing among agents, many of whom are conservative and supported Trump as a candidate. Agents were angered by the way that Trump fired Comey, who learned of his dismissal from television reports while he was in Los Angeles. They called it disrespectful.

A strained relationship with

the FBI can make life difficult for a president. The White House relies on the bureau for regular security updates and for unvarnished information during crises.

Agents, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to candidly offer their assessments of FBI morale, said they respected Comey as their director. They said they believed he had the bureau's best interests in mind and had tried his best to guide them through a difficult past year, even if he had misstepped in the Clinton investigation.

The Justice Department was rushing to put in place an interim director, with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the deputy attorney general, Rod J. Rosenstein, expected to interview at least four candidates Wednesday, a department official said. All are well regarded within the FBI and are seen as unlikely to allow politics to influence the Russian investigation — and as loyal to Comey.

But if firing Comey was meant to help restore the bureau's credibility and put the workforce at ease about the FBI's future, as Justice Department officials said, it has had the opposite effect.

"People are stunned right now," said Frank Montoya Jr., a former se-

nior FBI official.

For the moment, the bureau is being run by Andrew G. McCabe, a veteran FBI agent and previous deputy director who was at Comey's side as he navigated the politically perilous currents of the Clinton and Russian investigations that ultimately brought him down. Mc-Cabe held conference calls with the FBI's top agents late Tuesday and Wednesday and told them to stay focused on their work. It was to be business as usual, he said.

It is not clear whether McCabe will stay on as acting director. He is under consideration for the role of interim director, who will stay in place until Trump's eventual nominee is confirmed by the Senate, the Justice Department official said.

Whatever happens, another senior FBI official said stoically, the bureau will continue to investigate crimes. The day that Comey was fired was no different from the day before, the official insisted.

### Senate Republicans spurn call for special prosecutor

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - Senate Republicans rebuffed Democratic demands for an independent investigation of Russian meddling in the November election Wednesday, while expressing concern about President Trump's abrupt firing of FBI director James Comey.

Despite intense political blowback from Trump's move, Republicans said they were content with a Senate Intelligence Committee's probe into Russian electoral interference and possible ties to the Trump campaign, which has been running parallel to the FBI investigation Comey had been leading.

"I have confidence in the Senate Intelligence Committee," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who said he could not find "an acceptable rationale for the timing" of Comey's firing. "I don't want to do anything that prevents the Senate Intelligence Committee from moving ahead."

Confirmation hearings on the person Trump selects as Comey's replacement present a looming test of GOP unity, Kousser said. If Trump nominates a political ally rather than someone with unblemished credentials to lead the agency, he could force Republican moderates to abandon the White House and join Democrats in a call for an outside probe.

Senate Democrats reacted with outrage across the board. On Wednesday, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, used an obscure rule to slow down committee hearings and voice a call by Democrats for an independent investigation as Democrats gathered on the Senate floor in a demonstration of unity.

Schumer said Democrats would take up California Sen. Dianne Feinstein's demand that any appointment of a special counsel be made by a career Justice Department official, not a political appointee.

Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, confirmed to reporters that Comey's firing followed his request to the Justice Department for additional funds to conduct the Russia investigation.

Corker, the Tennessee Republican, said the GOP leadership had not handed down any instructions for how members should respond to the firing.

Nonetheless, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell set the tone with a floor statement Wednesday in which he defended Trump and accused Democrats of hypocrisy.

Democrats are "complaining about the removal of an FBI director whom they themselves repeatedly and sharply criticized" during and after the campaign, McConnell

### **WEATHER**

### Cool pattern continues

By Vince Agard

Fans of the past week's weather will be happy to learn that similar weather is in store for the Institute for the remainder of the week. The absence of any strong weather systems will result in mostly sunny skies to begin the day, with a sea breeze and a scattering of shallow cumulus clouds developing in the afternoon. Our proximity to the Massachusetts Bay will keep temperatures from escaping the mid-50s (°F),

causing high temperatures to mal for this time of year.

The pattern will finally break over the weekend, as a storm develops offshore and moves up the coast from Saturday night into Sunday. The storm will bring the potential for windy and rainy conditions to Eastern Massachusetts during that time. Afterwards, a warmer air mass and generally offshore flow will likely contribute to slightly warmer temperatures to start off next week.

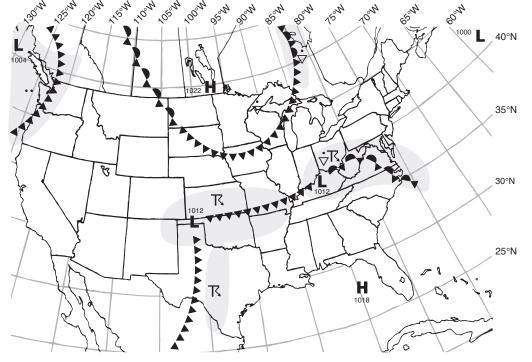
### **Extended Forecast**

Today: Partly cloudy. High 55°F (13°C). Wind N at 5-10 mph, becoming E in the afternoon.

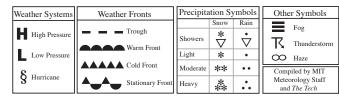
Tonight: Cleaing late. Low 45°F (7°C). Wind N at 5-10 mph. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. High 55°F (13°C). Wind N at 5-10 mph, becoming E in the afternoon.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a chance of rain late. Highs in the mid 50s°F (13°C).

Sunday: Rain possible. Highs in the low to mid 50s °F



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, May 11, 2017



# Trump bars U.S. media, but not Russia's, at Oval Office meeting

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — When President Trump met with top Russian officials in the Oval Office on Wednesday, White House officials barred reporters from witnessing the moment. They apparently preferred to block coverage of the awkwardly timed visit as questions swirled about whether the president had dismissed his FBI director in part to squelch the investigation into possible ties between his campaign and Moscow.

But the Russians, who have a largely state-run media, brought their own press contingent in the form of an official photographer. They quickly filled the vacuum with their own pictures of the meeting with Trump, Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, and Sergey I. Kislyak, Moscow's ambassador to the United States.

Within minutes of the meeting, the Foreign Ministry had posted photographs on Twitter of Trump and Lavrov smiling and shaking hands. The Russian embassy posted images of the president grinning and gripping hands with the ambassador. Tass, Russia's official news agency, released more photographs of the three men laughing together in the Oval Office.

The White House released nothing.

The result was a public relations coup of sorts for Russia and Lavrov in particular, who not only received a collegial Oval Office welcome from the president but also the photographic evidence to prove it. By contrast, when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson traveled to Moscow last month, President Vladimir Putin of Russia kept him waiting for hours before granting him an audience at the Kremlin. Then, too, Tillerson left his U.S. press contingent behind.

Kislyak has figured prominently in the furor surrounding the Trump team's contacts with Moscow. It

was conversations between the ambassador and Michael Flynn, the president's former national security adviser, that ultimately led to Flynn's ouster in February, ostensibly because he had lied to Vice President Mike Pence about whether the two had discussed U.S. sanctions on Russia. The White House had not divulged that Kislyak was to be present at Wednesday's meeting.

Former White House officials were left to wonder about the security implications of having allowed a Russian photographer unfettered access to the U.S. president's office.

Colin H. Kahl, the former national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, took to Twitter to pose what he called a "deadly serious" question: "Was it a good idea to let a Russian gov photographer & all their equipment into the Oval Office?"

David S. Cohen, the former CIA deputy director during the Obama administration, responded: "No, it was not"

# South Korea's new president promises new approach to North

**Choe Sang Hun** 

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's newly elected president vowed on Wednesday to play a more assertive role in resolving the North's nuclear crisis through dialogue, saying that he was willing to meet with its leader, Kim Jong Un, if the circumstances were right.

President Moon Jae-in also pledged to strengthen the alliance with Washington, expressing an eagerness for an early summit meeting with President Donald Trump, whose military posturing and diplomatic overtures toward the North in recent weeks have both rattled and confused South Koreans.

But Moon also hinted at balancing diplomacy between the United States and China, his country's largest trading partner, over the contentious deployment of a U.S. missile defense system here.

Trump called Moon hours after he was formally sworn in on Wednesday. The two leaders agreed to maintain a strong alliance and cooperate in dealing with North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, Moon's office said. They also agreed to hold a summit meeting in Washington at the earliest opportunity, it said.

Moon's comments appeared aimed at easing fears that his new liberal government and its eagerness for diplomatic and economic engagement with North Korea might create a rift with Washington.

Compared with his two conservative predecessors, who had emphasized a united front with Washington in punishing the North, Moon has often called for his country to take the lead in easing tensions on the divided peninsula through dialogue.

A day after winning the presidential election, Moon took office by reconfirming the broad changes he promised during his campaign, including curtailing the powers of the presidency and eliminating corrupt ties between government and business.

He also vowed to "get busy for the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula." Moon said he was also willing to travel to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, to meet with Kim. But he cautioned that for such a trip to take place, "the circumstances have to be right." He had earlier said that dialogue would become difficult if the North raised tension with another nuclear test.

The last inter-Korean summit meeting was in 2007, between Kim's father, Kim Jong II, and the president of South Korea at the time, Roh Moo-hyun, Moon's closest friend and ideological ally.

Moon is widely expected to introduce a modified version of Roh's so-called sunshine policy of engaging North Korea with dialogue, humanitarian aid and joint economic projects.

The idea behind the sunshine policy was to build trust with the North so that it would negotiate away its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. But that policy was thrown out in the last nine years. The two last presidents in Seoul, both conservatives, joined hands with Washington to try to isolate Pyongyang with sanctions and pressure, as the North advanced its weapons programs by conducting a series of nuclear and missile

## Pro-Nazi soldiers in German Army raise alarm

Melissa Eddy

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN — The initial case was bizarre enough that it was hard to know what it meant: A 28-year-old German Army lieutenant was caught posing, improbably, as a Syrian refugee. But when the incident turned out to be part of an elaborate scheme to frame migrants in a terrorist attack aimed at top government officials, the investigation widened.

First one barracks was searched, then another, turning up Nazi-era military memorabilia that pointed to a larger problem some had long feared, and which some commanders are now accused of sweeping under the rug: far-right extremists in the army ranks.

The military police in Germany are investigating 275 cases involving accusations of racism or far-right extremism stretching back six years, according to the Defense Ministry.

The revelations, in the middle of an election year, have started sniping between the civilian and military authorities. They have also added a disturbing new dimension to Germany's effort to address a surge of extremist activity since the country took in nearly one million refugees in 2015.

The widening scandal has revived concerns about Germany's shift to a volunteer force, which began in 2011. That step, some have warned, could narrow the ranks extremists looking for free training and access to guns and ammunition in a country with strict weapons laws.

Starting in July, all applicants seeking to join the military will have to undergo a security check aimed at weeding out potential extremists.

Last week, the inspector general ordered a search of all military installations for displays of souvenirs or images glorifying the Nazi-era military, the Wehrmacht.

The day before the April 27 arrest of the suspect accused of posing as a Syrian refugee, who was identified only as Franco A. in keeping with German privacy laws, Ursula von der Leyen, the defense minister, fired the military's head of training. The dismissal came in the face of reports about hazing rituals and charges of sexual harassment from female recruits at several

On Tuesday, federal prosecutors said they had arrested a second soldier, identified as Maximilian T., whom they suspect of plotting the attack with Franco A.

Prosecutors said that the two soldiers, and a third suspect identified as a student from Offenbach who was also arrested, had intended "to contribute to the general sense of a threat" by staging a terrorist attack that would appear to have been carried out by a registered asylum seeker.

## Christian governor in Indonesia jailed for blasphemy against Islam

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An Indonesian court found the Christian governor of the country's capital, Jakarta, guilty of blasphemy against Islam on Tuesday, sentencing him to two years in prison in a case widely seen as a test of religious tolerance and free speech.

The governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, was defeated last month by Anies Baswedan, a former minister of education and culture, in an election in which the blasphemy case, and religion, was a major issue.

Blasphemy is a crime in Indonesia, a secular democracy with the world's largest Muslim population. The sentence was harsher than what prosecutors had asked for. They had recommended a sentence of two years' probation on a lesser charge, which would have spared Basuki prison time.

Basuki told reporters that he would appeal the ruling, as supporters outside the North Jakarta District Court looked on in shock.

Basuki's 16-point defeat last month was seen as a sign of the increasing power of Islamic conservatives, who have pressed for the adoption of Islamic law, or Shariah, throughout Indonesia.

Shortly after the verdict, the governor was taken to Cipinang Penitentiary in Jakarta, which houses criminals including drug dealers and rapists. Under Indonesia's procedural code, the governor was not eligible to remain free during his appeal because the possible sentence he faced was at least five years, according to legal experts.

—Joe Cochrane, The New York Times

## Turkey assails U.S. decision to arm Syrian Kurds

ISTANBUL — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey lost his first major political battle with the Trump administration, which is arming the Syrian Kurds who the Turks consider enemies. The question now is what Erdogan, a headstrong leader, will do next.

The White House made the move to arm the Kurdish fighters because it considers them an effective military proxy in the fight against the Islamic State. But angering Turkey risks a rupture with an important NATO ally that is being courted by Russia, and could have an unpredictable impact on the battle against the Islamic State and the wars in Syria and Iraq.

On Wednesday, Erdogan's prime minister added another warning: that arming the Kurds could have "consequences" for the United States and a "negative result." He did not go into detail, promising only that Erdogan would elaborate when he meets President Donald Trump at the White House next week.

—Anne Barnard and Patrick Kingsley, The New York Times

## U.S. may ban laptops on all flights from Europe

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security is considering banning laptops and other large electronic devices from carry-on bags on flights from Europe to the United States, a department spokesman said Wednesday.

The action would extend a limited ban that was put in place in March. At that time, the United States and Britain barred passengers traveling through airports in 10 Muslim-majority countries from carrying laptop computers, tablets and other devices larger than cellphones aboard direct inbound flights. The larger items were to be stowed with checked luggage.

The ban was put in place after intelligence showed that the Islamic State was developing a bomb that could be hidden in portable electronic devices.

David Lapan, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, said the agency had not decided whether to extend the ban. "We'll likely expand the restrictions," he said.

John F. Kelly, the Homeland Security secretary, is to brief senators on security topics Thursday, according to a Senate aide. Officials did not say when a new ban might be imposed.

—Ron Nixon and Eric Schmitt, The New York Times

## Three G.O.P votes help Obamaera climate rule surive

WASHINGTON — In a surprising victory for President Barack Obama's environmental legacy, the Senate voted Wednesday to uphold an Obama-era climate change regulation to control the release of methane from oil and gas wells on public land.

Senators voted 51-49 to block consideration of a resolution to repeal the 2016 Interior Department rule to curb emissions of methane, a powerful planet-warming greenhouse gas. Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Susan Collins of Maine, all Republicans who have expressed concern about climate change and backed legislation to tackle the issue, broke with their party to join Democrats and defeat the resolution.

—Coral Davenport, The New York Times

## At parade, Putin calls for alliance with few allies by his side

MOSCOW — Russia rolled out a rather subdued version of its annual Victory Day parade Tuesday, with President Vladimir Putin calling for international cooperation in fighting terrorism even though foreign leaders had mostly stayed away.

Despite Putin's call for cooperation, the parade served as a reminder of just how isolated Russia has become, particularly in light of strained ties with the West over a variety of issues, including the 2014 crisis in Ukraine and accusations of election meddling.

Just one foreign leader stood in the reviewing stand amid the ranks of Russian officials and military veterans: Igor Dodon, the recently elected pro-Russian president of Moldova, a former Soviet republic. In past years, the annual parades have been attended by the leaders of China, Germany and the United States, among others

—Neil Macfarquhar, The New York Times



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### **GUEST COLUMN**

## Dealing with mental illness at MIT Reflections and advice from a MIT graduate

### By Anonymous

Confession: I experimented on myself starting in my first year at MIT. I could cycle into, within, and out of mania. I came to believe that I could control the frequency and timing of cycling. During a typical manic episode, my mental capacity and ability to solve problems increased. This was measurable; I earned top undergraduate grades at MIT, produced substantial research in a MIT lab, gained admission to top graduate programs, and joined a highquality laboratory at Harvard as a PhD candidate. I coordinated manic episodes with academic performance. Or so I thought. Coordination implies control; there was no control. As a student in rigorous programs at prestigious institutions, I feared losing my productivity and professional opportunities by addressing and "treating" my abnormal behavior.

### It can happen for many evenings over months or years. It can happen in private such that no one knows. This is death by suffocation.

Real discrimination is levied against people labeled as sufferers of abnormal behavior spectrum disorders: anxiety, depression, bipolarism, and schizophrenia. Molecular underpinnings - genetic and environmental - of these spectrum disorders are unknown. In broad terms, science and medical research still have not definitively proven if these spectrum disorders are a result of altered neuronal connectivity or altered neuronal activity and whether drivers of these neuronal changes are endogenous to neurons or derivatives from other biological processes (e.g. immune system, microbiota). Molecular diagnostics do not exist. Patients are binned into spectrum categories based only on presentation of behavioral symptoms. "Treatments" for these spectrum disorders are not known to target symptoms specifically. On a biochemical level, the target of pharmacological drugs and the resulting cellular or organismal outputs also remain

No amount of wellness programs or passionate opinion articles will break the stigma against people who suffer from mental illness. When people say, "We need more advocacy in general," I disagree. We need clear science and medical understandings of the molecular underpinnings for these abnormal behaviors, including both genetic and environmental etiologies. We need treatments that specifically suppress symptoms. We need scientists and medical professionals discussing research questions, directions, and context. We need transparent policies and cultural changes that support people getting critical care while protecting their privacy. We need college communities, such as MIT and Harvard, to provide an answer to, "Are individuals with mental illnesses viewed and treated as legal liabilities?" Most importantly, we need to reach people who are suffering, especially those who have become unreachable. As a student at MIT and Harvard, I was unreachable.

These realities fueled my fierce denial and normalization of my symptoms. My associated fears led to lack of empathy toward other students experiencing mental illness symptoms or seeking care. I don't know exactly when it happened, but I blurred into accepting a destiny sequence: my suffering in exchange for my contribution of some novel value to society before earning my peace, death by suicide. For students who think about suicide, it does not always happen in one evening. It can happen for many evenings over months or years. It can happen in private such that no one knows. This is death by suffocation. When I started planning my end, I started small. I organized my workspace, putting all materials into formats easily accessible and interpretable by others. I pared down my possessions. Then, this escalated. I thought practically about how to minimize emotional pain and inconvenience

MIT community and alumni, have you normalized an abnormal behavior? Do you understand the risk associated with this normalization? Have you accepted a destiny sequence as I had? I am crying out to you — please do not accept that, and please consider seeking critical care. I am not saying you should tell everyone about it. Definitely don't do that. I am asking you to start addressing it now. It takes time and energy to find a management strategy. The summer is coming up, which is a perfect time to look into medical resources, establish connections with medical professionals, and adjust to prescribed treatments when you don't have classes. Finding a management strategy alone or while in crisis does not work. If you are in crisis now, call or ask a friend to call a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) protected resource for you. Not all resources marketed as "private" or "confidential" actually are in legal terms. Be careful. Literally ask, "Is this resource

Not all resources marketed as "private" or "confidential" actually are in legal terms. Be careful. Literally ask, "Is this resource legally protected by HIPAA or by doctor-patient confidentiality?"

legally protected by HIPAA or by doctorpatient confidentiality?"

Calling a resource is not the end. It does not mean that you will have to change your life plans or accept your symptoms as an impairment. For me, calling a resource led to a functional management strategy for my mental illness. I no longer have to worry about killing myself. For a long time that was always the plan: I was destined to die by suicide, hopefully after making a novel contribution to society. To be clear, I did not actively plan suicide for years rather, I actively became comfortable with the idea of suicide. Now, I do not think that way. Now, I know that people battling behavioral spectrum disorders have value to society and deserve to live without discrimination. We are the different thinkers. We are able to see alternatives and have the energy to pursue them. Yes, there are negatives to our spectrum disorders that need management strategies. We need science and medicine to provide drugs that treat these negative symptoms. But no, we do not need science or medicine to "cure" us of the positive value that our disorders provide us. Society needs us. I have inter-

But no, we do not need science or medicine to "cure" us of the positive value that our disorders provide us. Society needs us.

nalized this. I feel like I belong. You also belong. I don't think less of myself, and you should not either.

To the MIT administration, I have five calls to action. I hope you can thoughtfully consider these calls over this summer term and implement changes prior to the next

(1) Redesign resource websites (e.g. S^3, MindHandHeart, Office of the Chancellor website, MIT Medical) to be more user-friendly and deliver information clearly regarding privacy, scientific facts about mental illness and existing policies for students seeking care with mention of how financial standing and degree progression is handled. Announce and make this information available at freshman orientation. Consider designing a cartoon roadmap of mental health resources and scientific facts about mental illness; place this cartoon roadmap in bathroom stalls

(2) Take down all information that reduces student likelihood to seek care. Additionally, consider adding videos other than depression on MIT MindHandHeart. By showcasing only one disorder, students may think that if they have a health issue other than depression, resources at MIT might not recognize it or offer support. If you film new videos, watch them approximately 100 times and ask, "Will this video showcase the diverse severity of issues MIT students face from imposter syndrome to serious medical issues? Are all types of students encouraged to seek critical medical

(3) Take down all the survey questions and percentage answers on Office of the Chancellor's website; only ~35 percent of MIT community responded. Are these statistics being abused to market MIT as a healthy place or platform much needed policy and cultural changes? At the very minimum, both positive and negative framing of questions should be displayed with equal frequency. For example, display, "X percent of students agreed with Y, and 100-X percent of students did not agree with Y." Note only ~35 percent of community responded. This technical point aside, there is a larger issue. Does the Office of the Chancellor have a conflict of st with marketing the MIT brand and caring for the MIT community? Do the statistics, that may or may not be representa-

Mental illness, Page 5

### **OPINION POLICY**

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Editor in Chief Vivian Zhong, Executive Editor Emme Bingham, and Opinion Editor Steven Truong.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*. P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and

will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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### Mental ilness, from Page 4

tive of the community, make students more likely to seek help when they need it or more likely to keep quiet — feel further isolated by the MIT community and not respond to surveys?

(4) Request the Committee on Medical Leave and Hospitalizations to release a data table to supplement their recently released report. Such a data table should have columns with existing MIT policies prior to their committee, recommendations to replace or change the policies, future steps to implementing changes with associated timelines, and comments on the efficacy of the policies - in terms of how likely students will receive appropriate care.

(5) Create a medical leave fund that would cover the tuition for students who need to leave mid-semester to seek medical care. Additionally, allow grade replacement for these students when they retake the classes at a later time.

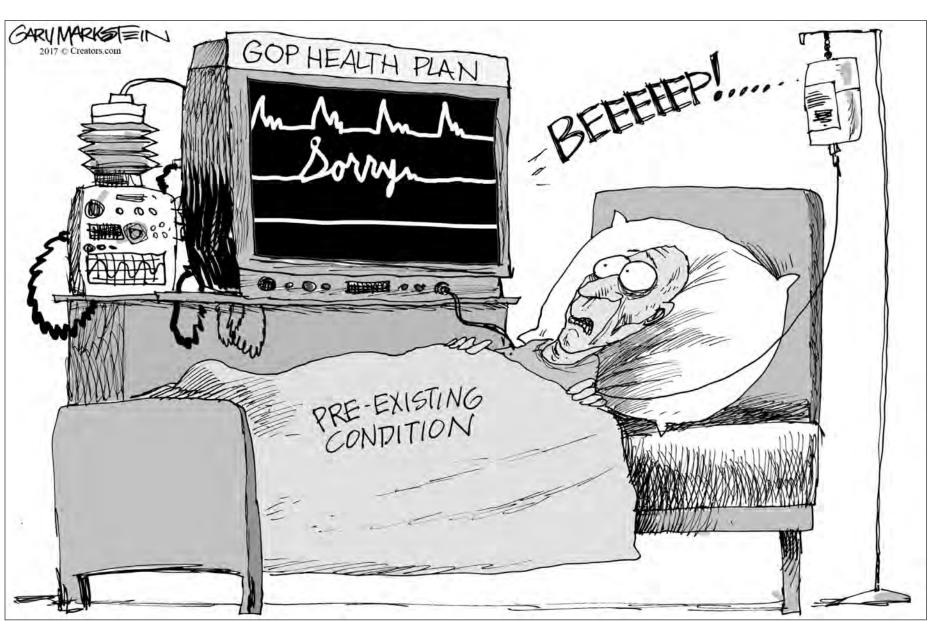
And so what happened to me? I spent time at McLean psychiatric hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts during graduate school. My advisor protected my academic progression and did not discriminate against me at any stage. A few years later, I remain on the drug that I was prescribed during that hospitalization. The student health services at Harvard and staff at McLean Hospital saved my life. This was not the first medication that I tried or the first time I talked to a psychiatrist or counselor. I had spent five months seeking care through student health services and was a guinea pig for different medications, but somehow this particular medication was only available upon hospitalization. An extended manic episode led to my hospitalization. "Led" is not so accurate; that implies a logical decision made by myself or at least some logical choice. I did reach out to someone who then explained the severity to a HIPAA-protected avenue.

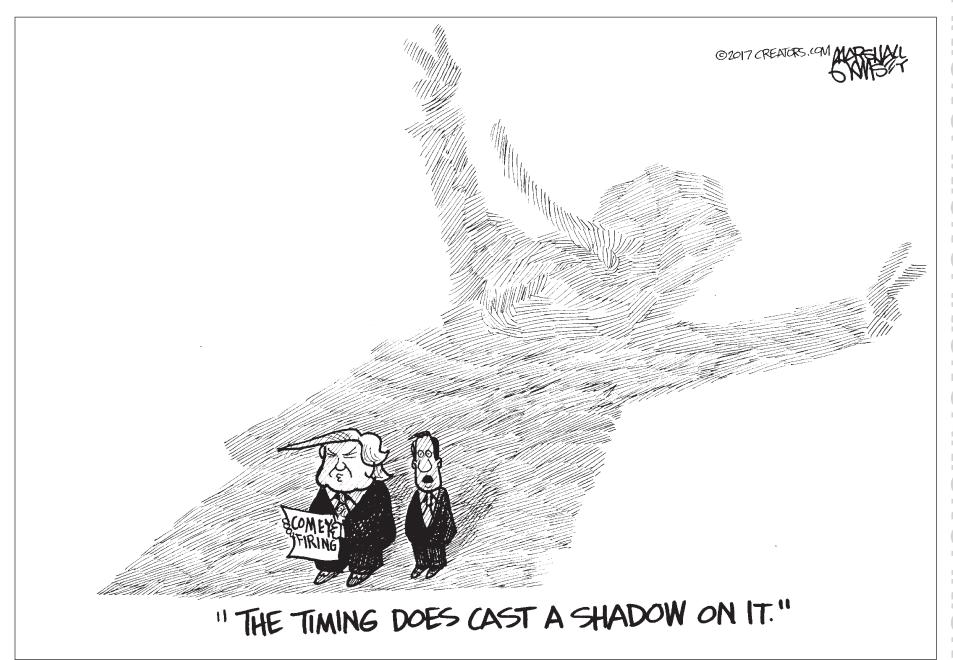
So is that the end? Did I just need that particular medication, and now I can be normal and tell everyone about surviving this thing called mental illness? No. The truth is that I am still experimenting on myself. I change the dosage, and at times, when I need the mania, I alter or skip dosages. To

be clear, the medication is not specific for mania symptoms; no mechanism of action is known, and generally it suppresses everything about myself, which at times is absolutely necessary. This is not a treatment. The word treatment implies full recovery. This is managing mental illness. I regularly seek medical care. I am 100 percent okay, should hospitalization become part of my care again.

Mental illness affects people across the world and is not specific to MIT or Harvard. I hope that both institutions can be leaders for the rest of the world and address this issue with grace and activism.

Editor's Note: The author was granted anonymity due to the extensive personal details shared in the article.





## **Corporate polish**

The woman I want to be

By Laura Yvonne Facusse

The other day, a friend of mine put in a good word for me for an amazing internship opportunity. He wrote, "Laura is not corporate polished, but she built a cosmetics manufacturing enterprise with no science background at all. She hustles and makes it happen. If she doesn't know how to do something, she will figure it out and learn it inside out."

# At age 13, when my mother committed suicide, I decided to say "f\*ck it" to everything I disliked, namely social norms.

I was not pleased with the assessment, but I agreed. I realized I am not corporate polished, and I knew why. At age 13, when my mother committed suicide, I decided to say "f\*ck it" to everything I disliked, namely social norms. She was an artist with dreams, but she felt trapped in a conservative housewife role with six kids and didn't feel free. I felt that one of the things that led to her depression was having to sacrifice who she really was for who she "had to be." I didn't want to live a life dominated by fear, so I became a bandit. As Steve Jobs would say, "It's more fun to be a pirate than to join the navy."

I embodied this role, especially when running for student council president at my high school. My campaign was all about being a nonconformist, and when I won, the faculty was worried I had revolutionized the student body and tried to veto my candidacy. To their dismay, I prevailed. I carried this attitude with me when, later on, my start-up's manifesto was "The Woman I Want to Be."

I created a line of chic natural cosmetics for Latinas called Vonne. It was inspired by a promise I had made to my mother, Yvonne. She always had business ideas, but I knew she would never pursue them, so I would always tell her, "When I grow up, I promise I will do them for you." The Vonne manifesto encouraged women to be free and authentic in an ultra conservative society. In Latin America, a place full of machismo, the bandit feminist approach became a marketing success for the female audience.

After coming from the jungles of Latin America, where everything is 20 years behind, to MIT, where everything is 20 years ahead, and while looking for a job, I realized I needed to say goodbye to this bandit persona. The friend who wrote me a recommendation told me, "I think it sucks that this 'corporate polish' undermines your true potential." Nonetheless, we were on a mission to "sophisticate" me, and he offered me his "polishing" services. His first lesson: "Laura, do you remember the discussion you had with our IDM professor, Matt Kressy, in product design lab about the importance of a product's packag-

ing? 'Polishing' is packaging for corporate employers."

The professor argued that companies spent too much time deciding on packaging, and it involved too many people's opinions in the process. The product inside was more important, he said, and weirdly enough, it took less time to develop than the packaging. I strongly objected and argued that packaging was equally important because if the packaging wasn't good, no one would pick the product off the shelf.

## I didn't want to live a life dominated by fear, so I became a bandit.

Some of us spend more time developing our private personas while others focus more on their "corporate polished" public personas. In the end, I realized I agree with the professor. Developing your private persona should take more time than developing your "packaging."

However, I felt it was time to invest in my packaging. I needed to pay the bills. I needed to wear heels and make deals. Learn the jargon. Sign up for "Power and Negotiation" in the fall semester. Learn finance and ramp up my technical skills. Rehearse for recruiting. I looked in the mirror and asked myself the typical Behavioral Interview Questions: What is my background? Why should they hire me? Why am I interested in them? Why do I want this job?

After going over these questions repeatedly, I took a long pause and realized I rejected the idea of being corporate polished. I didn't want to sacrifice who I am for who I "had to be" like my mother did. Somehow, the teachings from my Case Studies in Logistics and Supply Chain professor, Jonathan Byrnes, kept popping in my head. In every class for the whole semester, he repeated that when you are stuck on a problem, you need to take a walk by the river, and so I did.

After 20 years of this painful internal struggle, I finally became deeply aware of why I did the things I did. Being at MIT has helped me realize that I needed to balance my inner product and my packaging in order to be successful. It finally dawned on me that this corporate polish would enable me to really become "The Woman I Want to Be," because this sophistication would open new and bigger doors for me. This rehearsing for recruitment wasn't solely about getting a job; it was about finding, trusting, and believing in myself.

I need to look and feel the part; I need to be professional and confident. I am only going up, not down. I realized how silly I was being and that it was time to move on, away from my past. I need to go beyond making peace between my private and public personas. I need to reinvent myself. I need to push the envelope instead of fine-tuning an obsolete, broken 13-year-old bandit.

Laura Yvonne Facusse is a first year in the MIT Integrated Design and Management graduate program.

### **TECH TRANSFERS**

## **Dina Katabi**

## Immigrant members of the MIT community

I grew up in Damascus, Syria, and came to the US to do my PhD. My years as a graduate student at MIT were amazing, with many long nights of heated discussions, coding and searching for intractable bugs, and arguing about social and political issues while solving math problem sets. My best friends were also my office mates. We worked, took classes, and traveled together. By the end of my PhD, I was so attached to

CAMPUS LIFE

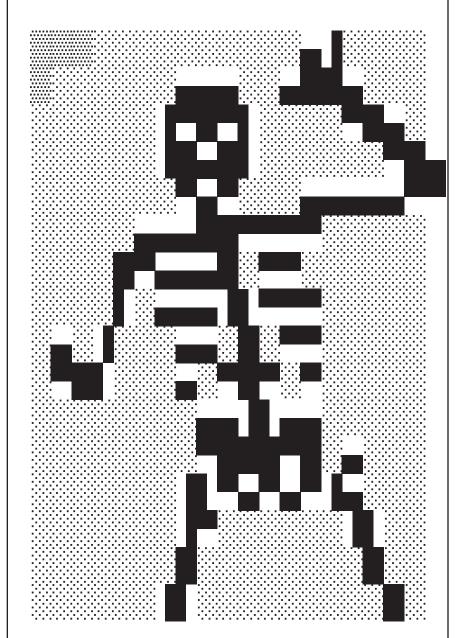
MIT, it was hard to leave. I took a faculty job and stayed.

Dina Katabi is the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the MIT Center for Wireless Networks and Mobile Computing.

Editor's note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.

COURTESY OF DANIEL JACKSON

**Dina Katabi**, the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and her dog, Mika.



JOIN THE TECH
THIS SUMMER.

OUR STAFF IS SKELETAL.

### **DANCE REVIEW**

## **An American Icon: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater revisits Boston**

Artistic Director Robert Battle premieres three pieces

By Ray Wang STAFF WRITER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre is nothing short of an iconic piece of our country's history. Created in 1958 by New York choreographer Alvin Ailey and a company of African-American dancers, it has flourished into a world-renowned symbol of contemporary dance and the African-American cultural experience.

Following the annual tradition, the Celebrity Series presented Alvin Ailey to Boston last Thursday. Under the guidance of artistic director Robert Battle, the company has introduced several exciting new pieces into its repertoire. "Deep," "Walking Mad," and "Ella" all made their Boston premiere last Thursday.

'Walking Mad" was a thrilling ensemble performance to the tune of "Boléro" by French composer Maurice Ravel. A playful piece, it repeated the simple melody without pause, slowly building from soft to thunderous over the course of 15 minutes. The maddeningly slow crescendo reflects the chaos of the dancers on stage and the inner turmoil of insanity. The only set piece was a simple wooden fence, perforated with hidden doors and

hinges that become the playground of a dance that swung between hectic and melancholy.

There was even more energy in "Ella," an acrobatic, up-tempo duet choreographed to the scat singing of jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald. Michael Francis McBride and Renaldo Maurice, dressed in sequined tuxes, were light on their feet, combining for a sensational several minutes

As the curtain lifted for "Revelations," revealing the performers in a tight formation, their arms outstretched like wings in the iconic pose so often associated with Alvin Ailey — the audience cheered in recognition. Choreographed by Ailey himself, "Revelations" is a company standard - a soaring combination of traditional blues and gospel songs that play to the diverse history of the African-American people.

The finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham," brought the audience to their feet, clapping and moving to the rhythmic spirit. A final encore, and the curtains closed for the fifth and final time that evening. Alvin Ailey's winning formula is combining the well-worn with the new, and the illustrious company again delivered to a receptive Boston audience.



Ghrai DeVore and Belen Pereyra perform in Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

### **MOVIE REVIEW**

## Food, Feuds, and Fame in Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent

The rise and fall (and return?) of celebrity chef Jeremiah Tower

By Krystal Lai

Director Lydia Tenaglia and executive producer Anthony Bourdain's culinary documentary Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent opens with footage of some dusty looking rocks. It quickly becomes apparent that these dusty rocks are in fact ancient ruins upon which present-day Jeremiah Tower himself stands, staring wistfully into the clear skies. Why he is standing on these ancient ruins, however, is never fully explained. Instead, the film switches gears, flashing a barrage of excerpted clips from the rest of the documentary that foreshadow the highs and lows of its namesake: the celebrity chef Jeremiah Tower and his aston-

The rest of the documentary plays out much like its opening scenes, presenting Tower as an enigma that seems to defy explanation. Much of the film consists of narrations and interviews with many of his friends, colleagues, and contemporaries, including Mario Batali, Anthony Bourdain, Ruth Reichl, and Martha Stewart. Many are quick to label Tower as an innovator, creator, and artist in his field of work, but the chorus of voices also captures a more complex picture of Tower as a human being. Tower possesses a brashness that seems almost magnetic, and undoubtedly, his own theatricality and personal opulence provide the film with an added kick of entertainment. Nevertheless, there is also a quietness in his dedication and efforts toward his craft, a biting sense of egoism that he carries as an artist, a romanticism in his respect for the old world traditions, and a flippant self-assuredness that is often viewed as a constant middle finger to the rest of the world. Part of the documentary's appeal is the multifaceted way in which it depicts Tower's personality. No one can be defined by a few trite adjectives and, thankfully, the film does not attempt to do so to Tower.

For those looking for a more story-driven drama, the film is also billed as an examination of Tower's personal and professional life. It begins his story with dream-like footage of reenacted memories that paint an

idyllic picture of his seaside childhood, but the tranquility is short-lived. Before long, the viewers are taken down a bumpy road of family drama, school-age mischief, and introspective growth that preceded the nascent talents of this gastronomic pioneer. Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificient traces Tower's rise to fame from a new chef in 1972 at Chez Panisse to a leader of the California cuisine movement, from his opening of his legendary, celebrity-attracting restaurant Stars to its sudden closure, and from his two-decade long disappearance to his unexpected return to the Tavern on the Green in New York City. The journey we take alongside Tower is exhausting but also deeply fascinating because it weaves together the drama and circumstances of his life's story with the provocative complexity of his character.

Overall, Tenaglia and Bourdain manage to create a cohesive character piece that takes a personal and honest look into the life story of a culinary icon. Not only is it a visually appealing film — complete with slow-motion footage of lobster, duck, and octopus being tantalizingly prepared — but it is also an entertaining peek into the chaotic and colorful world of the professional

Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnigicent

**Directed by Lydia Tengalia** 

Starring Jeremiah Tower, **Anthony Bourdain,** Martha Stewart, **Wolfgang Park, Mario** Batali

Rated R

**Now Playing** 

**TELEVISION REVIEW** 

# Making the world a better place, one startup at a time

College editors speak with Big Head actor Josh Brener as HBO's *Silicon Valley* comes back for season four

Silicon Valley

НВО

Created by Mike Judge, John Altschuler and Dave Krinsky

By Ivy Li

Hooli CEO Gavin Belson puts it best, "I don't know about you people, but I don't wanna live in a world where someone else makes the world a better place better than we do." Thus exists the irony of Silicon Valley. Set in a idealistic startup culture, Silicon Valley is a satirical romp trying to get at the roots of what makes the Valley tick, and it does so with uncanny accuracy. The show is so well-researched by its writers and informed by Mike Judge's previous startup experience that the viewers from the real-life Valley have been enthusiastic; some have even commented that they cannot stand watching it because it so closely resembles their reality.

Its cast is led by Richard Hendricks (Thomas Middleditch), the former CEO of fictional startup Pied Piper, a compression company founded in Erlich Bachman's (TJ Miller) incubator. Facing all the tribulations of a young company, Hendricks and his team struggle to stay afloat, barely managing it at the end of each season. Season four offers different take on the show, as the company just barely manages to survive, having just been purchased by Bachmanity, a joint incubator formed by Erlich and Nelson "Big Head" Bighetti (Josh Brener).

Oh, Big Head. He just happens to be in the right place at the right time, going from unemployed coder to multimillionaire and then back. Five college newspapers, including *The Tech*, had the pleasure of speaking with actor Josh Brener last Wednesday in a Google Hangouts session.

The following is a transcript of the group interview:

Columbia Chronicle: Were you aware of the culture of Silicon Valley before starting the show, and how did you adapt to that?

Josh Brener: Great question. I am really not a tech person at all; I'm a kind of a dummy when it comes that stuff, but by virtue of looking like someone who does know about tech, I had gotten exposed to it a fair bit just through acting. I worked on a movie called *The Internship* which was about Google, and that definitely gave me a crash course in what the world was like up there. But in terms of

the inner workings of what it is as a business with VC firms and funding and acquisitions and all the complex stuff, that was all new to me. And getting into the personalities has definitely been the most fun part — because it is some very interesting types of there and getting to meet some of them up there. One of my favorite moments, I think in season one, we went to a premiere up there and a guy came up and said hello and said he enjoyed the show and we chatted for a few minutes. He said, "What was your name?" and I said, "Josh," and said, "And you are?" and he said, "Craig" and then he handed me a business card, and it was craig@craigslist.org, and it was Craig. [laughs] And I was like, okay, that was fun. And I don't know, it's interesting. You expect people that are like Craig from Craigslist or any of these big names that you would recognize from tech industry, the sort of big CEO personalities and very polished — they're not that. They're people in odd clothing choices, and they're amazing and also really nice and wonderful people.

The Tech: My question is also about Big Head's character. Back in season one, I took some advice from him: whenever you don't understand something, you would just nod and smile and it works out every time. I'm wondering how much of you do you put into your character and how much of it is improvised when it comes to your performance?

Brener: [laughs] I try to convince myself that Big Head and I aren't that similar, but I think maybe we are. I definitely don't have a shortage of this imposter's syndrome when it comes all the entertainment Hollywood stuff, so I definitely do my fair share of pretending I've seen movies that I haven't and pretending that I know names that I definitely don't because I'm embarrassingly ignorant when it comes to this world out here. I'm sure if I tried taking any of the classes that you're currently taking at MIT, it would be a true disaster. [laughs]. But like I said, I do have to give most of the credit for the Big Head character to the writers, to Mike Judge and Alec Berg and their staff because when we started the show, it wasn't really clear what the Big Head character was. When the show was casting, a bunch of us, Kumail and Martin and me and maybe even Zach. We all auditioned for TJ's role, for Erlich, and obviously TJ got it, but then the creators of the show had us come back as these other roles based on our auditions for the Erlich character and filled out the cast with us. So I never auditioned for the Big Head character. I didn't know what it was or where it was going when we shot the pilot. I didn't know a ton about what it was going to be and then once they started writing season two, they sort of honed this character to figure out what exactly it was going to be. I think they came up with something unbelievably funny and I've just been lucky to get to be this wide-eyed, confused dumb-dumb.

The Depaulia: Since we're on the topic of Big Head, Big Head always seems to find himself in the right place at the right time. That resonates with a lot of people. Has there ever been a circumstance in your career where it just seems like the stars aligned so it was Big Head-esque? I know this is sillier, but have you ever had a Big Head moment in your career?

Brener: That's great. [laughs] This was a weird one. I went to college at Harvard, and I was in this weird theatre group there called The Hasty Pudding, which is this really bizarre theatre group where guys are dressed in tights and high heels and do big dumb shit's really silly and crazy. But after I was out here for a few years, I ended up auditioning for a role on this show, House of Lies, which is on Showtime, so I shouldn't be talking about it, but the role was to play a recent Harvard graduate talking about The Hasty Pudding. It just blew my mind; I couldn't believe it. I went in wearing my goofy Harvard tie and made up a bunch of stuff about Hasty Pudding, which I knew a lot about because I had done it for four years and ended up getting the part and got to do this role, which was one of my first jobs just because I don't think there's anyone else who's going to get a job about Hasty Pudding who was out here at this particular time and place, so that one did feel like a lucky, stars-aligning kind of thing.

Daily Michigan: The show has so many subtleties, especially with the set, [with] all the Burning Man posters in Erlich's incubator. What's it like being on that set with all the small details? Do you find that it helps build energy between the cast?

Brener: It's honestly so distracting because we have so many toys to play with, and they're fun, nerdy things. Like in season one, we were all playing with the Perplexus — it's that three dimensional sphere, maze thing so that became a huge thing. [laughs] They've learned slowly to not give us things that are that distracting because we'll just disappear as a group. There was a computer game, like a screensaver type game on one of the computers in season one, and we just all disappeared into it for hours at a time. It was terrible; it wasn't a good game. It was just a demo that they created but yeah, that stuff definitely helps. When you're on the set, it definitely feel like you're in that world. The fake smells of fake pot and stale beer and stale pizza make it feel legit. It helps a lot.

Daily Californian: One of the most amazing things about Silicon Valley is just



JOHN P. JOHNSON/H

Josh Brener as Nelson "Big Head" Bighetti in HBO's Silicon Valley.

the weird connection between the actual Bay area and the show. This definitely gets the sense of when you look into the valley, the valley looks back at you, and I was just wondering if you could talk about your experiences with that.

Brener: Yeah, that's definitely been one of the most fun things about doing the show this feedback loop from people in the real Silicon Valley watching the fake Silicon Valley, and people from the show Silicon Valley going up and doing research in the real Silicon Valley and meeting the people they've been making fun of, and the people they've been making fun of loving the show and not necessarily realizing that the show is making fun of them. It's definitely an odd ouroboros of satire. But getting to meet luminaries that are really people that, as much as we make fun of it, they are changing the world with the things they are doing. And the technological revolution that has gone on in the last 10 to 15 years or 20 years I guess. Getting to interact with those people by virtue of our silly show is a really cool and fun and unique thing and the fact that they really seem to like it is the best part about it. Our writers do such a good job researching the show and so I think the authenticity they bring to the scripts makes people really like it. Like police officers watch a cop show or lawyers watch a legal show or doctors watch a medical drama, and they're always like, well, that's sort of dumb, like that's not really true, but I think with our show, a lot of it is pretty accurate and I think it's because it's so well researched, and I think the real-deal people of Silicon Valley appreciate that and enjoy watching themselves. I mean, we're all egomaniacs, right? We just want to watch ourselves.

The interview has been edited and cut for clarity and length.

ALBUM REVIEW

### **DAMN.**, by Kendrick Lamar

Kung Fu Kenny's latest project contains continued artistic prowess with added pop sensibilities

★★☆☆

DAMN.

Kendrick Lamar

Top Dawg Entertainment

Released Apr. 14, 2017

### By Ryan Hays

When I'm asked about this album, my response is instinctive — it doesn't feel Kendrickesque. Yes, this answer deserves the many eyerolls it has elicited, but it's also a good conversation starter for those familiar with Kendrick Lamar's artistry. After all, what does it mean to be "Kendrickesque?" In 2012, his major label debut Good Kid, M.A.A.D City was a potent narrative told through the eyes of a young man possessing good intentions and a bad blunt. The songwriting was honest, the production was phenomenal, and the story was as personal as it was critical of the sunny

Compton afternoon in which Kendrick was hopelessly swimming. After penning music's most haunting bildungsroman, Kendrick Lamar switched gears entirely with his release of *To Pimp A Butterfly* in 2015. Consisting of jazz, soul, and funk, this album meditated on black life in America, but its stunning emotion made it a universal anthem of empowerment and self-love for all. It was as impactful and brilliant as any album released this decade, and listening to it today continues to leave me in awe. Despite their thematic and musical differences, both of Kendrick Lamar's major albums scream one commonality — *they both have something to say*.

DAMN. certainly has some of these moments. In the track "DNA.," Kendrick's lyrics are coupled with the heavy bass and rattling hi-hat that rage relentless against those who doubt him. The bars "I got power, poison, pain and joy inside my DNA/I got hustle though, ambition, flow inside my DNA" showcase the pride and the acceptance that he has for himself and for those that grew up around him. This bravado builds intensity throughout the track until it climaxes for a Earth-shattering transition, where Kendrick speeds up his flow and unleashes all of the anger and emotion

running through his veins, reminiscent of "The Blacker the Berry" on *To Pimp A Butterfly*. Kendrick is a very conscious rapper, but tracks in which Kendrick's fervor is unbounded are his most inspired.

A similar track is "HUMBLE.," which features a very simple bass line and a looping piano riff where Kendrick stands tall upon the hip-hop throne and commands those to "sit down/be humble." The irony here is brilliant, and building a braggadocious, trap-influenced song into the album makes his insecure moments more tangible. Those moments show up in tracks like "FEEL.," in which he raps, "I feel like I'm losin' my focus/I feel like I'm losin' my patience/I feel like my thoughts in the basement" over a calm, swirling beat. A lack of focus is dangerous in Kendrick's world where temptations exist at every corner, as heard on the track "YAH.," when he says, "I know he walks the Earth/But it's money to get, bitches to hit, yah." He is as quick to declare his vices as he is to declare himself a god-like figure. This juxtaposition between separate parts of his personality makes Kendrick feel realistic and his music relatable.

A few of the tracks on *DAMN*. emphasize pop balladry as opposed to a more concep-

tual nature. "LOYALTY.," featuring Rihanna, is catchy with its use of G-funk synths and straightforward lyrics, but is also so cut and dry in its theme that it adds nearly nothing to the album. As the title implies, Kendrick and Rihanna emphasize the importance of staying loyal to loved ones, but there is no added depth to justify this hip-hop cliché. Simply repeating a character trait is surprisingly dumbed-down for a Kendrick Lamar song. The track "LUST." falls into a similar trap, as Kendrick criticizes meaningless, dopamineinducing activities over a cheap, lazy beat. Kendrick isn't wrong in his analysis, but the track is such an easy, one-sided argument that he comes off as preachy. The track "LOVE." sounds like a Jeremih song, and that is by no means a compliment. All of these songs are void of the storytelling that makes most of Kendrick's music so phenomenal.

The expectations for Kendrick Lamar are as high as those for any artist today, and most of moments on this album show why Kendrick continues to be the best hip-hop artist of his generation. However, the inconsistencies in the songwriting along with weaker concepts prevent *DAMN*. from being the great album it was expected to be.

### **Solution to Crossword**

From page 11

BEE SCAMP ABATE
RNS PALER MANIA
ACT ALAMO OLDER
NOHARMNOFOUL
CRETE FRYPAN
HERE ADMIT HERA
BRIAR FOAMY
NOGUTSNOGLORY
FAIRY CONEY
DINO NORSE JEER
ALKALI CONDO
NOPAINNOGAIN
RADIO SNOOP MBA

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### Solution to Sleep from page 10

2	8	9	1	4	7	6	3	5
5	7	3	2	9	6	4	1	8
1	6	4	8	3	5	9	2	7
4	1	7	9	6	8	2	5	3
9	5	6	3	7	2	1	8	4
8	3	2	4	5	1	7	9	6
3	9	5	7	1	4	8	6	2
6	4	8	5	2	9	3	7	1
7	2	1	6	8	3	5	4	9

### Solution to Eat

ı	1	8	4	5	7	6	2	9	3
ı	6	3	7	9	2	4	5	1	8
ı	9	2	5	8	1	3	6	7	4
ı	8	5	3	1	9	7	4	2	6
ı	7	4	9	6	8	2	3	5	1
ı	2	1	6	3	4	5	9	8	7
ı	3	6	2	7	5	8	1	4	9
ı	5	7	1	4	6	9	8	3	2
ı	4	9	8	2	3	1	7	6	5

### Solution to Relax

ı	6	1	3	5	2	9	7	8	4
ı	9	8	5	4	7	3	2	1	6
ı	2	7	4	8	1	6	5	9	3
ı	4	5	1	3	6	7	8	2	9
ı	3	6	2	9	5	8	1	4	7
ı	7	9	8	1	4	2	3	6	5
ı	1	4	7	2	9	5	6	3	8
ı	8	2	6	7	3	4	9	5	1
I	5	3	9	6	8	1	4	7	2



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### Pants Rockets: US Patent No. 10,278,345 by SOYO



## **Sleep**Solution, page 9

			1			6	3	
5			2					
	6			3		9		7
	1	7				2		
9	5	6				1	8	4
		2				7	9	
3		5		1			6	
					9			1
	2	1			3			

### Eat

Solution, page 9

			5	7				
6	3	7	9	2				
							7	4
	5					4	2	
	4	9	6		2	3	5	
	1	6					8	
3	6							
				6	9	8	3	2
				3	1			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

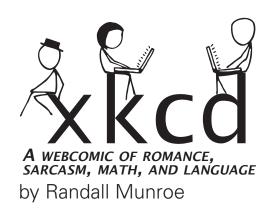
### Relax

Solution, page 9

6	1							
		5		7	3		1	
	7		8		6			3
	5	1				8		
3	6						4	7
		8				3	6	
1			2		5		3	
	2		7	3		9		
							7	2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

### [1833] Code Quality 3







IT'S LIKE A JSON

LIKE YOU READ TURING'S 1936 PAPER ON COMPUTING AND A PAGE OF JAVASCRIPT EXAMPLE CODE AND GUESSED AT EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



IT'S LIKE A LEET-SPEAK TRANSLATION OF A MANIFESTO BY A SURVIVALIST CULT LEADER WHO'S FOR SOME REASON OBSESSED WITH MEMORY ALLOCATION. I CAN GET SOMEONE ELSE TO REVIEW MY CODE. NOT MORE THAN ONCE, I BET.

It's like a half-solved cryptogram where the solution is a piece of FORTH code written by someone who doesn't know

### Double Negatives by Charles Slack

Solution, page 9

### **ACROSS**

- 1 "Busy" bug
- 9 Taper off
- 14 OR workers
- 15 Less tanned 16 Excessive enthusiasm
- 17 Perform on stage
- 18 San Antonio landmark 19 More mature
- 20 "We can excuse that mistake"
- 23 Largest Greek island
- 24 Skillet
- 28 Roll call response
- 29 Allow entrance to
- 33 Mrs. Zeus
- 34 Thorny plant
- 35 Topped with froth
- 36 Daredevil's credo
- 40 Tinker Bell, for one
- 41 \_\_ Island (Brooklyn neighborhood)

- 42 T. Rex, for short
- 43 The Vikings
- 50 Tenant-owned apartment
- 51 Bodybuilder's slogan
- 59 Be nosy
- 60 Finance deg.
- 62 Make amends
- 64 Go on a spree
- 65 Prodded with an elbow

### **DOWN**

- 1 Subsidiary office
- 3 Old Testament queen
- 5 Serene

- 44 Derisive shout
- 48 Acid neutralizer

- 56 Part of NPR

- 61 Signs of the future
- 63 Half-rectangle shape

- 66 Was in first place
- 2 Concert extra
- 4 Tire in the trunk
- 6 Astronaut Shepard

- 7 Brief office note
  - 8 College teacher nickname
- 9 Love, in France
- 10 Publicity hype
- 11 In addition
- 12 Reason for extra innings
- 13 Portion of corn
- 21 Chowed down
- 22 Frequently, in poetry
- 25 Green or yellow fruit
- 26 General's employer
- 27 Aye's opposite
- 29 Gallery display
- 30 '70s music
- 31 Posh residence
- 32 Smoothing tools
- 34 Pay for
- 35 Take wing
- 36 Perform perfectly
- 37 Sound from a sty 38 Sounding dissatisfied

39 "How about that!"

- 40 Medicine testing agcy.
- 18 19 20 23 28 29 |30 |31 |32 36 |37 |38 42 51 52 |53 |54 |55 59 60 62 63

65

- 43 Slight chill in the air
- 44 Slow run
- 45 Tooth covering
- 46 Fit to consume
- 47 Jimmy's successor 49 Off the leash
- 50 Dealt with adversity
- 52 Without delay, in a note

66

- 53 Captivated by
- 54 Cozy corner
- 55 \_ of the above
- 56 Steal from 57 End of Horner's boast
- 58 Family room

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